

1 CHIEF JUDGE RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
7 AT SEATTLE

8 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) No. CR19-202RSM
9 Plaintiff,)
10 v.) ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED
11 STEVEN MICHAEL BURKE,) MOTION TO SCHEDULE GUILTY
12 Defendant.) PLEA HEARING VIA
13) VIDEOCONFERENCE

14 THE COURT has considered the unopposed motion of the parties to proceed
15 forward with a guilty plea hearing via teleconference and finds that:

16 (a) Under General Order 04-20, felony pleas and sentencing may proceed by
17 video or telephone if “the district judge in a particular case finds for specific reasons
18 that the plea or sentencing in that case cannot be further delayed without serious harm
19 to the interests of justice.” A plea hearing in this case cannot be delayed without serious
harm to the interests of justice; and

20 (b) Mr. Burke is prepared to enter into a guilty plea and resolve his case in a
21 timely fashion; and

22 (c) Mr. Burke wishes to enter a plea as soon as possible in light of anticipated
23 delay associated with the COVID pandemic and a desire to alleviate presumptive
24 backlogged court calendars following the COVID recovery process. Mr. Burke
25 understands that the Court may not be as able to accommodate a timely resolution of his
26 case in the future as more cases are delayed; and

1 (d) a videoconference guilty plea hearing would avoid further delays in the
2 ultimate sentencing in this case, which would cause “serious harm to the interests of
3 justice.” *See* General Order No. 04-20 (3/30/20).

4 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter should be set for a guilty plea
5 hearing via teleconference as soon as possible.

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7 DONE this 9th day of November 2020.

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10 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
11 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT
12 JUDGE

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14 Presented by:

15 s/ *Sara Brin*
16 Assistant Federal Defender
17 Attorney for Steven Burke